Sugar-cane cultivation.

511. *MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether several hundreds of acres of land formerly under paddy cultivation are now under sugar-cane cultivation in North and Central Travancore;

(*b*) whether any statistics have been collected on the subject; and

(*c*) whether the price of molasses has been controlled by the Government, and if not whether this non-control of the price of molasses and control of the price of paddy have led agriculturists to take to cultivation of sugar-cane in the place of paddy?

MR. T. C. KOCHUNNI PILLAI: (*a*) No. Sugar-cane and paddy are cultivated in certain lands in rotation.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) The price of cane jaggery has not been controlled. The question whether the absence of control in respect of the price of cane jaggery has led to the substitution of the cultivation of sugar-cane in the place of paddy does not arise in view of the answer to (*a*).

Manure Depot at Kilimanoor.

512. *MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have received a representation from Kasthuri Bai Memorial Village Uplift Co-operative Society No. 2420, Kilimanoor, Chirayinkil taluk, in Karkadagom 1120 to establish a manure Depot at Kilimanoor; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken on that?

MR. T. C. KOCHUNNI PILLAI: (*a*) Yes. An application has been received from the Society for the grant of an agency for the sale of manures.

(*b*) As information regarding the kinds and qualities of manure required and the maximum credit to be allowed had not been stated in the application, the Society has been asked to furnish the same through the Registrar of Co-operative Societies.

Scarcity of rice.

513. *MR. P. KOCHUKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they are aware that there was an unprecedented acute scarcity of rice in the State from February 1946 onwards; and

(*b*) if the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, the reason for such a scarcity?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Inadequacy of quota allotted to the State under the Kharif Plan for 1946, reduced quantity of paddy obtained under local procurement and an unprecedented increase in the demand consequent on failure of crops and return of a large number of demobilised personnel from war service

Kuttanad paddy fields.

514. *MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

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[Mr. K. K. Chellappan Pillai.]

(*a*) whether they are aware that a large acreage of paddy fields in Kuttanad is left fallow this sowing season ; and

(*b*) if the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative what steps Government have taken against this wanton destruction of national economy?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : (*a*) Government are aware that an extent of about 13,000 acres of punja lands in Kuttanad is left fallow this year ?

(*b*) Government did not think it necessary to take any action on the matter in view of the fact that these lands, if cultivated, would not adequately repay the expenses of culvation.

Rationing of food materials.

515. *MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the Government are aware that there is a complaint amongst the people that the paddy, rice and wheat that are rationed out are of inferior quality and unfit for use; and

(*b*) if the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative what the Government propose to do to remedy the defect ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : (*a*) Some complaints have been received.

(*b*) Government will take the requisite steps to remedy the defects whenever they are discovered or pointed out.

Ration shops.

516. *MR. P. KOCHUKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Division Peishkars and Tahsildars have power to grant wholesale and retail licences to run ration shops under the Food Grains Control Order in cases where they are satisfied that a particular locality requires a shop.

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: No.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: May I know whether complaints were received and they have been looked into ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Yes Sir.

PRESIDENT : Very large number of cases of complaints on examinations of paddy and other materials, have been received.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: May I know the number ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : I could not say off hand.

MR. P. K. KUNJU : May I know the authority who is empowered to issue these licences ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : The area Rationing Officer and the State Food Rationing Officer.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know.....

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : There is no instruction.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : May I know whether after the recent census any new licences have been granted in the Quilon Division.

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : It may not have been given, I must consult the Peishkar, Sir.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know by whom were these licences issued?

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